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PREFACE.

TWENTY-THIRD VOLUME.

On a sultry day in July, the Printer calls for a preface to the Twenty-Third Volume of the Magazine. A preface ?—but we wrote one a short time since. That was bound up in the last volume; we want one for this. O! so soon again, the last number of another volume. A preface! the last page written, the least read! Why have one at all? Why bother a man's brains to write what he knows will almost never be read? O, for the completeness of the book. It is as necessary as the outside row in a corn field, although you know the squirrels will take every kernel of it. After all, when written in good weather and under favorable circumstances, the preface is often a somewhat sprightly page; and some literary physiognomists there be who can discern the character and disposition of a book through its face. The Sailor's Magazine is a periodical, *for*, *about*, and *by* Sailors, with a little sprinkling *by*, and *about* the doings of Sailors friends. It is one of the discoveries, inventions, or improvements of the last half century. Who thought fifty years ago of a literary and religious periodical *for* Sailors? Who thought *about* them? Who ventured to write a book *about* them for the moral and religious to read. What *Sailor* dared to write truth or was able to write fiction about himself or fraternity. Now all these novelties are found in this Volume and its fellows. And greater wonders than these are in prospect. The Sailor is beginning to laugh at *head winds*, and is giving up the old system of playing "Helm's a Lee;" and blow which way it may, he goes ahead straight on his course, and is soon there.

In old time, he carried out rum and opium, and a few missionaries to the heathen, and brought us tea and silks and slaves. In later times, grown more civil and more wise, he has become Bible and Tract distributor himself, and when and where none else will, he can sometimes preach "righteousness, temperance, and a judgment to come," without

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notes, a nd prays without a book. An impatient fellow, he will not wait for Christian Unions and Mission Boards to teach the world by missions. He is bringing Europe over here to be taught Christ, and Law and Government; and has commenced, in Tarshish ships, to bring China's sons to the land of Gold; and when his Celestial Majesty shall have discovered a few earthly things, we trust, their daughters by their side, to make them sons and daughters of Zion, from afar, and so at last make that venerable empire truly celestial.

And ever ready to bear a hand in tempestuous times, and a peacemaker withal, he is getting ready to carry Africa's down trodden sons and daughters back to Fatherland—to make Ethiopia stretch forth her hands unto God.

Who reads this preface need not stop his Magazine through fear that age will make it stale, though twice as old as now.

CONTENTS

OF THE SAILOR'S MAGAZINE, VOLUME TWENTY-THIRD.

A.

Page

Account of Moneys 31, 64, 96, 127, 160, 191, 224, 256, 288, 320, 352, 375
Annual Report of Maine Seaman's Union - - - 46
An Incident - - - 60
Ancient Commerce of W. Asia - 69
A Revolutionary Matron - 95
Artic Voyages - 103, 123, 132
Am. Beth. Soc'y Receipts 128,190,329
A Card - - - 122
Alexander Selkirk - - 161
Address to Sailors - 168, 193
Address by Rev. W. Mountford 269
Anniversary of Am. Beth. Soc'y 287
Annual Report of A. S. F. Society 289
Anniversary of A. S. F. Society - 381
Abolishment of the Cat - 306
Alterations of Beacons - - 309
Acknowledgements - - 369
A Card - - - 375

B.

Boston S. F. Society - - 6
Blessed be Nothing - - 14
Boston Marine Mission - - 75
Bethel Flag in China - - 92
British Naval Statistics - - 146
Bible in the Forecastle - - 159
Baltimore Bethel Society - 171
Bravery and Humanity Rewarded 174
Bordeaux Chaplaincy - - 251
Boston S. F. Soc'y Anniversary - 240
Bible Distribution - - 369
Boston S. F. Soc'y - - 370

C.

Captain Turned School Master - 10
Claims of Seamen - - 33
Covert from the Tempest - 158
Canadian Commerce - - 175
Chaplain's Trials and Success - 216
Chaplain's Journal - - 220
Call me Mara - - - 240
Christian Editor Encouraged - 252
Colored Seamen - - 304
Commerce of New York for 1850 305
Commerce of Philadelphia - 351
Charleston Port Soc'y, Report - 362

D.

Diary of Seamen's Chaplain - 8
Drop Words and Smiles - 16
Disasters 24, 52, 116, 149, 211, 276, 307
Dreadful Oath - - - 29
Deacon and his Vessel - - 63
Deaths of Seamen at Staten Island 95, 349
Damages for enticing a Minor to Sea - - - - 159
Donation for all Hands - - 255
Destruction of Minot Light House 309
Discovery of Columbia River - 310

Page

Donations in Philadelphia - 320

E.

Eloquent Facts - - 48
Evil and its Remedy - - 185
Extracts from a Discourse - 327

F.

Flogging in the Navy - 49, 83
First Letter in the Drunkard's Alphabet - - - 55
Fruits of Faith - - - 59
Floating Church - - 310

G.

Go up, look towards the sea - 1
Guide to Glendalough - - 11
Gentleness and Ferocity - - 80
Good Conscience - - 348

H.

Hint on Temperance - - 35
Havana, Cuba - - - 87
Honor to John P. Hale - - 127
Happy New Year - - 153
Heroic Feat - - - 157
Honolulu, Sandwich Islands - 188
Havana Chaplaincy, 245, 280, 282, 317
Havre Chaplaincy - - 247
Hiding Place from the Tempest - 268

I.

Improvements in the Navy - 30
Isaac, the Esquimaux - - 47
Interesting Letter - - 124
Important to Ship Owners - 131
Income for Benevolent Purposes - 144
Infirmary at Havana - - 183
Interesting Letter - - 186
Information Wanted - - 215
Island World of the Pacific - 252
Inland Waters - - - 262
Indians Judging Ministers - 368

J.

Jesus, the Sinner's Haven - 10

Page

Judson's Monument - - 240
Jenny Lind's Donations - 348

L.

Lost at Sea - - 54, 152, 310
Little Hands can Help - - 81
Lahaina Chaplaincy, - 91, 209, 339
Ladies' Sewing Circle, Lenox, Mass. - - - 94
Liverpool Docks - - - 193
Lord Ross's Telescope - 225, 257
Law of Conscience - - 265
Law as to Shipping Seamen - 310
Life Members - - - 352
Legacies - - - 352
Ladies S. F. Soc'y, Concord, N.H. 368

M.

Means of Happiness - - 15
Moral Worth - - - 15
Music on the Pacific - - 16
Missing Vessels, 26, 54, 152, 210, 279, 309
Mariners Church N. Y. - - 86
Miscellaneous - - 146
Morris Canal Miss'y Report - 156
My Mother - - - 203
Mode of Shipping Seamen - 204
Miscellaneous Statistics - - 210
Mission to Seamen - - 223
Misquotation - - - 301
Memoir of Captain Congar - 367

N.

Notices to Mariners 22, 52, 120, 147, 211, 279, 309
Not Worth being a Villain for - 68
Nobody Cares a Copper for Me - 84
New York Captain - - 92
New York Bible Soc'y Report - 206
New Cut - - - 225
Naval Force of Great Britain 276, 351
Naval Discipline - - - 276
New Orleans Sailor's Home - 306
New Chaplaincies Established - 369

O.

Obscure Passages in the Bible - 21

Page

Only one Step at a Time - 55
Old Man's Rebuk - - 279
Our Navigation - - 300

P.

Providential Rescue - - 38
Preservation of Life at Sea - 39
Practical Joke - - - 80
Plenty of Traps and a Heavy Chest 87
Patrick Henry *vs.* Intolerance - 93
Plouden Halsey - - - 113
Prediction - - - 123
Portland Bethel - - - 190
Post Office N. Y. Statistics - 190
Pithy Passage - - - 203
Pacific Correspondence - 217, 234
Pitcairns Island - . 359

R.

Rat Story - - - 10
Revival on Board California Vessel 58
Religious Liberty in Sweden - 86
Robbing Seamen - - 88
Report of Bethel Missionary - 101
Rescued from the Lion - - 170
Resolution on the Sabbath - 170
Reciprocal Sympathy - - 176
Rescuing the Lost - - 183
Remniscences of a Sailor's Life - 237
Rosevelt st. Mariner's Church - 253
Remarkable Voyage - - 286
Religion at Sea - - - 371
Rio de Janeiro Chaplaincy - 375

S.

Small Means with a large Heart 9
Sabbath Wrecks - - - 17
Swedish Sailor and the Norwegian Stranger - - - 28
Seven Mile Tunnel - - 15
Settling a Kingdom Man of War Fashion - - - 41
Seamen's Advance, 43, 44, 65, 143
San Francisco, California - 54
Sailor Missionary 57,89, 141, 160, 337
Sick Sailor, - - - 61
Sailor's Home, N. Y. 62, 352, 366
Ship Master and Son - - 66

Page

Sandwich Islands - - 97
Seamen's Cause in England - 109
Seafaring Interests - - 121
Sailor and his Lump of Gold - 121
Seamen's Chaplains - - 123
Sandwich Islands - - 129
St. Thomas Chaplaincy - 155
Sailor's Magazine - - 16
Sabbath Keeping Whaler - 172
Shipwrecked Sailor - 173, 177
Statistics of New York for 1850 176
Shipwrecked Sailor - - 190
Seamen Short Lived - 202
Shipping in Port of New York 214
St. Thomas Chaplaincy 222, 333
Savannah Port Society - 223
Shipwreck near the Land's End 241
Sea Maxims - - - 243
Seamen's Floating Bethel - 248
Sailors and Iusurance - - 266
Seamen's Advance - 267, 268
Silent Influence - - - 267
St. Thomas Chaplaincy - - 284
Seamen's Aid Society, Boston 284
Sailor's Home on the North River 285
Sailing Directions for Columbia River - - - - 275
Spiritual Recognitions - - 302
Swearer and his Boy - - 304
Slander - - - 319
Sailors Home, Mobile - . 320
Sailors—Their Character and Influence . - - 344
Sailor Missionary - - 345
Seamen's Union, Maine - 373

T.

The Difference - - 34
Thoughts by the Sea Shore - 36
The Late Commodore Jones - 51
The Mountain Miller, &c. - 58
The Sailor - - - 112
The Sandwich Islands - 165
The Mariner - - - 189
Treatment of Monomaniacs - 189
The Sea, an Instrument of Civilization - - - - 202
The Law - - - 214
Tribute of Merit - - 209

Page

Thanksgiving Incident - 272
The Pirates - - - 273
The Cruise of a Bottle - 275
Tonnage of the United States - 305
Timely Reflections - - 348

U.

United States Navy - - 145
U. S. Ship Brandywine - 154
Use of Wealth - - 205

V.

Valparaiso Chaplaincy 233, 342, 315, 374
Voyage in Search of Sir J. Franklin 253
Voyage in Search of Sir J. Franklin 321

W.

Who Rob Orchards - - 38

Page

Water Spouts - - - 154
Word from a Seamen's Chaplain 159
Western Boatmen's Union 205, 244
Western Boatmen's Friend Society 215
Word to the Young Sailor - 232

POETRY.

Sabbath at Sea - - 27
Alone on the Sea - - 56
The Sailor's Grave - - 56
The Mother - - - 56
The Sailor's Appeal - - 56
Orphan's Gift - - - 82
Sailor's Funeral - - - 82
The Cross is my Anchor - 184
The Cross is thy Anchor - 184
The Angels of the Waters - 184
Advertisement of a Lost Day - 184